

## PATENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A ball joint comprising:  
a socket having at least one opening and an inner chamber;  
a bearing assembly disposed in said inner chamber of said socket, said bearing assembly including first and second spaced apart bearings members;  
a ball stud having a ~~central~~ ball portion and a stud portion, said ball portion having a bore formed therethrough and said stud portion slidably disposed within said bore of said ball portion for axial movement relative thereto, said ball portion supported by said first and second spaced apart bearing members of said bearing assembly; and  
a resilient bushing having a longitudinal bore formed therethrough and disposed in said inner chamber and fixedly attached to of said socket, wherein said stud portion of said ball stud is slidably disposed in said longitudinal bore of said resilient bushing for axial movement relative thereto.
2. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said resilient bushing is non-movably disposed in said inner chamber ~~such that an outer surface of said bushing cannot move relative to the surface of said chamber.~~
3. Cancelled
4. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, ~~wherein said bushing is has a longitudinal bore formed therethrough,~~ and wherein a sleeve is disposed in said longitudinal bore of said resilient bushing.
5. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 4, wherein said sleeve is fixedly attached to said resilient bushing.

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6. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim [4] 5 wherein said sleeve is fixedly attached to said resilient bushing with an adhesive.
7. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 4, wherein said stud portion is slidably disposed in said sleeve.
8. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 4, wherein said stud portion further includes at least one key provided on an outer surface thereof and said sleeve includes at least one keyway provided on an inner surface thereof, and wherein said key of said stud portion is slidably disposed in said keyway of said sleeve.
9. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said ball portion of said ball stud has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the said first axis and the said second axis defining a center of oscillation of said ball portion, wherein said ball portion is normally centered on the said center of oscillation.
10. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 9, wherein said resilient bushing is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or return said ball stud portion to the said normally centered position.
11. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, further including a seal for sealing said at least one opening of said socket.
12. Cancelled

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13. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 1, wherein said resilient bushing is formed from one of rubber and neoprene.

14. (Currently Amended) A ball joint for a vehicle having steering wheel, said ball joint comprising:

a socket having at least one opening and an inner chamber;

a bearing assembly disposed in said inner chamber of said socket, said bearing assembly including first and second spaced apart bearing members;

a ball stud having a ~~central~~ ball portion and a stud portion, said ball portion having a bore formed therethrough and said stud portion slidably disposed within said bore of said ball portion for axial movement relative thereto, said ball portion supported by said first and second spaced apart bearing members of said bearing assembly; and

a resilient bushing having a longitudinal bore formed therethrough and disposed in said inner chamber and fixedly attached to of said socket, wherein said stud portion of said ball stud is slidably disposed in said longitudinal bore of said resilient bushing for axial movement relative thereto, wherein said ball portion has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the said first axis and the said second axis defining a center of oscillation of said ball portion, wherein said ball portion is normally centered on the said center of oscillation, and wherein said resilient bushing is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or ~~restore~~ return said ball ~~stud~~ portion to the said normally centered position.

15. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 14, wherein said resilient bushing is non-movably disposed in said inner chamber ~~such that an outer surface of said bushing cannot move relative to the surface of said chamber.~~

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16. Cancelled

17. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 14, ~~wherein said bushing is has a longitudinal bore formed therethrough, and~~ wherein a sleeve is slidably disposed in said longitudinal bore of said resilient bushing.

18. (Currently Amended) The ball joint according to Claim 14 17, wherein said sleeve is fixedly attached to said resilient bushing.

19. (Original) The ball joint according to Claim 14, wherein said stud portion further includes at least one key provided on an outer surface thereof and said sleeve includes at least one keyway provided on an inner surface thereof, and wherein said key of said stud portion is slidably disposed in said keyway of said sleeve.

20. (Currently Amended) A tie rod end adapted for use in a vehicle having a steering wheel for controlling steerable wheels, said tie rod end comprising:

a socket having at least one opening and an inner chamber;

a stem extending outwardly from said socket;

a bearing assembly disposed in said inner chamber of said socket, said bearing assembly including first and second spaced apart bearings members;

a ball stud having a ~~central~~ ball portion and a stud portion, said ball portion having a bore formed therethrough and said stud portion slidably disposed within said bore of said ball portion for axial movement relative thereto, said ball portion supported by said first and second spaced apart bearing members of said bearing assembly, wherein said ball portion has a first axis and second axis transverse to the first axis, an intersection of the said first axis and

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the said second axis defining a center of oscillation of said ball portion, wherein said ball portion is normally centered on the said center of oscillation; and

a resilient bushing having a longitudinal bore formed therethrough and disposed in said inner chamber and ~~fixedly attached to~~ of said socket, wherein said stud portion of said ball stud is slidably disposed in said longitudinal bore of said resilient bushing for axial movement relative thereto, wherein said resilient bushing is formed of a material having a predetermined hardness to thereby apply a restoring force to maintain or restore return said ball stud portion to the said normally centered position, and wherein when a torsional force is applied to said ball stud by turning of a vehicle steering wheel, said ball stud is caused to rotate about the said first axis.